

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/978,607

Examiner

Yveste G. Cherubin

Applicant(s)

HECHT ET AL.

Art Unit

3713

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to communication filed August 4, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5,7-13,15,16,18-20,22,24 and 26-31.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 15 October 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

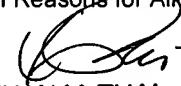
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 2/23/04, 4/5/04, 8/4/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

  
XUAN M. THAI  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
GA43713

1. This action is in response to the amendment filed on August 4, 2004.

***Response to Amendment***

2. It has been noted that claims 6, 14, 17, 21, 23, 25 have been cancelled, claims 28-31 added. Thus, claims 1-5, 7-13, 15-16, 18-20, 22, 24, 26-31 pending.

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

3. The application has been amended as follows:

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

In the Preliminary amendment dated May 31, 2002, in the "In the specification:" section: Page 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, line 5, the words "now US Patent No. 6,769,985" have been inserted between 09/583,482 and *Attorney Docket No. 0112300-015*.

Page 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, lines 7-8, the words "now US Patent No. 6,739,973" have been inserted between 09/686,244 and *Attorney Docket No. 0112300-00145*.

Page 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, lines 9-10, the words "now US Patent No. 6,561,908" have been inserted between 09/687,692 and *Attorney Docket No. 0112300-467*.

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***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 1-5, 7-13, 15-16, 18-20, 22, 24, 26-31 are allowed over the prior art of record.

***Reasons for Allowance***

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: upon extensive searches of gaming device with sound recording changes associated with player inputs the Examiner respectfully submits that the prior art of record fails to disclose a gaming method comprising "providing a sound file after a designated event occurs, providing access to a plurality of different variations of the sound file, associating a plurality of options with (a) different ones of the variations of the sound file, and (b) different ones of the functions of the game" as claimed in the independent claims.

Hence, the Examiner has allowed claims 1-5, 7-13, 15-16, 18-20, 22, 24, 26-31.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yveste G. Cherubin whose telephone number is (703) 306-3027. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 - 6:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Supervisor, Thai Xuan can be reached on (703) 308-2064. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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